களால் கூட உதவுவதற்கு சர்க்காரால் மறுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. ஆகவே குழந்தைகள் பெண்கள், அகதிகள், முன்னேற்றத்திற்காக இந்த விஷயத்தை அனுதாபத்தோடு கவனிப்பார்களா என்றுதான் கேட்கிறேன் ?"

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" ஜில்லா போர்டுகளிலும் இன்னும் நிதி நிலைமை அதிக மந்தமாகவே இருக்கிறது."

*Attack of spike disease on sandal trees*

* 1126 *Q.*—SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN (on behalf of Sri K. Aranganathan): Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the sandal trees in the forests of Madras State are infested by spike pest; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken by Government to control this disease?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir. The sandal trees occurring in parts of Salem North, Salem South, Vellore West, Vellore East, Coimbatore North, Kollegal and the Nilgiris Forest Divisions have been attacked by the spike disease.

" (*b*) The spike disease has been under investigation for the last 50 years, and research in the matter has not yet yielded conclusively satisfactory results."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Sir, the sandalwood tree is the most precious tree in our country and as we have got almost a monopoly in regard to the production of sandal-wood oil, may I request the Government to pay attention to the effective curing of this disease so that our trade is kept apace? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir, the Government are fully aware of the value of the sandal-wood trees and the need to preserve and protect them from this disease. The Government have recently addressed the Government of India to pursue this matter further and see whether they could not achieve some results to avoid the incidence of this disease."

*Building for the Municipal High School, Mayuram*

* 1127 *Q.*—SRI M. P. SUBRAMANYAM (on behalf of Sri K. R. Sambandam): Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation from the Mayuram Municipality for the grant of a loan to provide additional accommodation for the Municipal High School; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The question of sanctioning a loan for the construction of a building for the Municipal High School, Mayuram, will be considered after the plans and estimates are approved by the Director of Public Instruction."